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FROM: MOSCOW

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 672, SEPTEMBER 14, 1962

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Date: 9/14/62

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☐ S or ☐ OADR☐ S or ☐ OADR☐ S or ☐ OADRACTION DEPARTMENT 672, INFORMATION LONDON 76, PARIS 73,
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GERMAN AMBASSADOR KROLL, AFTER LENGTHY FRIENDLY CONVERSATION WITH KHRUSHCHEV, IS CONVINCED THAT LATTER PLANS TO PROCEED WITH PEACE TREATY SHORTLY AFTER US ELECTIONS. KHRUSHCHEV SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO DELAY ACTION SINCE THE REALLY IMPORTANT DIFFICULTY, I. E. FLOW OF REFUGEES, WAS SOLVED BY THE WALL. HE THEREFORE PREPARED HOLD OFF UNTIL NOVEMBER. MEANTIME HE SAID, SOVIETS WILL BEGIN TO PREPARE PUBLIC OPINION FOR SIGNATURE PEACE TREATY, ALL DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN FULLY PREPARED. TERMS OF THE PEACE TREATY WILL MAKE CONTINUATION WESTERN OCCUPATION BERLIN QUITE IMPOSSIBLE. SHOULD WESTERN POWERS UNDERTAKE SOME ACTION WHICH LEADS TO RISK OF WAR, SOVIETS WILL GO TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. KHRUSHCHEV SAID HE FULLY INFORMED ON WESTERN CONTINGENCY PLANNING. BUT KHRUSHCHEV REITERATED THAT WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION AND WESTERN LEADERS SO ANXIOUS TO AVOID WAR THEY WILL FIND SOME WAY TO LIVE WITH SITUATION.

IT SEEMED CLEAR TO KROLL THAT KHRUSHCHEV DOES NOT REPEAT NO REALLY BELIEVE WESTERN LEADERS ASSERTIONS OF READINESS TO DEFEND POSITIONS IN WEST BERLIN EVEN AT RISK OF WAR.

KROLL HAS THE IMPRESSION WHICH COINCIDES WITH OTHER INDICATIONS WE HAVE ALREADY NOTED THAT SOVIET PROGRAM OF ACTIONS LEADING TO SIGNATURE OF PEACE TREATY WILL BEGIN TO FOLLOW SHORTLY AFTER US CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS ON A TIME TABLE WHICH WOULD PERMIT

RECOURSE TO

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RECOURSE TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, IF SUCH SHOULD BE REQUIRE,
WHILE THE PRESENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS STILL IN SESSION.

KROLL FOUND KHRUSHCHEV IN EXCELLENT HEALTH, RELAXED AND CONFIDENT.

MCSWEENEY

HLN

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